

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

February 4, 2016

Judges select winner of Youth Tour contest

Congratulations to **Katelynn Sutton**, whose essay was chosen as the winning essay in the Montana 2016 Youth to Washington, D.C., essay contest. Vigilante Electric Cooperative submitted her essay and MECA's member services' judging committee chose her from a large pool of contestants to represent the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association on this year's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

A sincere thank you to our judging committee: **Jennifer Hagood**, Marias River Electric; **Scot Brown**, McCone Electric, and; **Scott Westlund**, Sheridan Electric. There were a lot of great essays submitted this year.

Beckie Frediani of our staff will be sending out welcome packets to all 2016 Youth Tour participants no later than Tuesday, Feb. 9. Anyone with questions regarding the tour should contact Beckie at (406) 761-8333 or, via email at beckie@mtco-ops.com.

Credentialed Cooperative Director series offered

MECA and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives will cosponsor Part 1 of NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Fast Track course series in Minot, N.D., March 10-12. The courses offered for Part 1 are: 2600, "Director Duties and Liabilities"; 2610, "Understanding the Electric Business," and 2630, "Strategic Planning."

The courses will be held at the Sleep Inn & Suites, 2400 10th St. S.W. in Minot.

Part 2 of the CCD Fast Track will be held Oct. 12-14 in Billings. The final two courses of the fast track series offered under Part 2 are: 2620, "Board Operations and Process," and 2640, "Financial Decision-making." The 2640 class is a 1-½ day class.

The pre-registration deadline is Feb 26. Please contact Beckie Frediani at the statewide office at (406) 761-8333 or beckie@mtco-ops.com for registration information.

Registration fees for the series are as follows:

- \$2,495 for the entire Fast Track, which includes all five required courses and the cost of meals and refreshment breaks;
- \$2,295 discounted registration fee for the entire Fast Track if your cooperative registers three or more board members for all five courses;
- \$500 per individual course for courses 2600-2630 and \$750 for course 2640, which includes the cost of a continental breakfast, two refreshment breaks and one luncheon.

OSHA 1910.269 training offered March 1-3

MECA will offer OSHA 1910.269 training at our statewide association office in Great Falls, March 1-3. The course will be taught by MECA's senior safety instructor, **Johnnie Stanton**. He will cover all topics in the OSHA 1910.269 regulation, including electric power generation, transmission and distribution.

The course will begin at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 1, and conclude by noon on Thursday, March 3. Lunch will be provided on Tuesday and Wednesday, and a continental breakfast and snacks will be provided each day. Monday, Feb. 15, is the deadline to register.

For overnight accommodations, MECA has corporate room rates at the following hotels in Great Falls: LaQuinta Inn & Suites (Ph: 406-761-2600); Best Western Heritage Inn (Ph: 406-761-1900); and Staybridge Inn & Suites, (Ph: 406-761-4903).

Anyone with questions or needing additional information should contact **Lea Potoczny** of our staff at (406) 761-8333. Her email address is meca@mtco-ops.com.

Job Market

Marketing/Public Relations Manager

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative is seeking an energetic, organized and creative marketing/public relations manager. The co-op is located near Grand Teton and Yellowstone National parks.

The person in this position will utilize a multimedia approach and creatively market products and services for both electric and propane divisions. In addition, he or she will coordinate and participate in educational and promotional events sponsored by the co-op and community events. This person will also provide concise and interesting internal and external communication.

Key responsibilities will include: public relations, focusing on community relationships, promoting brand recognition, and maintaining the positive image of the cooperative; internal/external communications, creating the content and design of a monthly newsletter, maintaining the co-op's website and creating engaging posts on Facebook, Twitter and other social-media platforms; and marketing. Marketing will require a focus on sales, creation of marketing materials and promotion of product sales, conservation programs and propane services, utilizing all forms of traditional and digital media.

Qualifications include the following: A marketing and/or communications degree, or at least two years of related experience; a self-starter with the ability to think and plan strategically, and this person must work well, both collaboratively and independently; excellent writing and editing skills, with the ability to speak in public with clarity and confidence, and; a valid state driver's license.

In addition to an outstanding career opportunity, Fall River Electric offers a competitive salary, paid sick and vacation days, and comprehensive benefits, including medical, dental, life insurance and retirement plans.

To view the basic job description and learn more about Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, visit www.fallriverelectric.com. Click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "Quick Links" heading. To apply for this position, send resume and salary history by Feb. 5, 2016, to Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative; Attention: Human Resources; P.O. Box 736; Milville, UT 84326. Or, applicants may email their resume and salary history to melanienichols2@gmail.com.

Billing Clerk

Lincoln Electric Cooperative, based in Eureka, has an immediate opening for the full-time position of billing clerk. The person in this position is responsible for managing the automated meter readings, performing the billing and collection processes, maintaining the databases that support them, accepting payments and providing customer assistance. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two years of post-secondary education in a related field is preferred. Utility experience is recommended but not essential. If you are a highly motivated and organized individual who is customer-oriented and functions well in a team environment, submit a Lincoln Electric employment application, along with a professional resume, to: **Kylie Larson**; Office Supervisor/HR Director; Lincoln Electric Cooperative, PO Box 628; Eureka, MT 59917. Ms. Larson's email address is klarson@lincolnelectric.coop. This position will remain open until filled.

Journeyman Lineman

Big Horn County Electric Cooperative (BHCEC), based in Hardin, Mont., has an opening for a journeyman lineman.

Applicants must have completed a recognized apprenticeship program, be a team player, be on an "on-call" Rotation, and have or be able to obtain and maintain a Montana CDL. Other requirements are: Having a positive, safety-minded attitude, ability to operate equipment associated with the trade, physically able to perform all the duties involved with being a journeyman lineman, and pass a pre-employment drug screen.

BHCEC is located in southeast Montana in the heart of an outdoor enthusiast's dream. If you enjoy hunting, fishing, water sports, winter activities and much more, this is a great place to be. The co-op offers a competitive salary and benefit package. For more information, applicants can call the office at (406) 665-2830 to obtain an application. Email resumes to mrussell@bhcec.com.

CALENDAR

February

9-12	Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 1 & 2	Missoula, MT
11-18	NRECA Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA
23-26	Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 3 & 4	Billings, MT

March

1	MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School	Billings, MT
2	MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School	Helena, MT
3	MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School	Missoula, MT
1-3	OSHA 1910.269 Training	Great Falls, MT
4	Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Dillon, MT
4	Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
8	Big Horn Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hardin, MT
10-12	Certified Credentialed Directors Fast Track Course – Part 1	Minot, ND
15	Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hysham, MT
19	Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Corvallis, MT
19	Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT
19	Lincoln Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Eureka, MT
19	Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Kalispell, MT
22-25	Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 3 & 4	Missoula, MT
24	Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Huntley, MT
25	Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Fairfield, MT
30-31	Managing Emotions Under Pressure Workshop	Great Falls, MT

April

4	957.1 Director's Course	Great Falls, MT
5-6	MECA Spring Board and Committees Meetings	Great Falls, MT
7	Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
8	Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT
19-20	MECA-Sponsored Retirement Seminar	Great Falls, MT
26	Disaster Response Plans and Working With FEMA Training	Great Falls, MT
30	Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Cut Bank, MT

May

1-3	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.
7	Northern Lights, Inc. Annual Meeting	Sagle, ID
10-11	Line Superintendents Spring Meeting	Lewistown, MT